



National Indian Telecommunications Institute

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As a commenter supporting Sacred Wind Communications' initial application for FCC waivers, Docket 96-45, DA 06-1645, the National Indian Telecommunications Institute strongly supports Sacred Wind's request for an Extension of Waivers in order to correct financial support for Sacred Wind that was initially based on costs incurred during a short period in 2006.

The National Indian Telecommunications Institute ("NITI") supports Sacred Wind's current application for an Extension of Waivers for the very same reasons that NITI supported Sacred Wind's initial application. Quite simply, the Navajo people in northwestern New Mexico are among the least served people for telecommunications services in the United States, and Sacred Wind is the only telecommunications carrier that has planned to eliminate this gap over the next three to four years. The FCC agrees with this, as seen in its finding in Section 35 of its ruling on Sacred Wind's initial waiver application:

"We find that granting Sacred Wind's request for waiver will serve the public interest by allowing Sacred Wind to provide much-needed telecommunications services at affordable rates to many Navajo peoples who have never had telephone service, or have been unable to afford to maintain it.¹³⁰ We expect that the availability of enhanced Lifeline and Link-Up likely will increase penetration rates in these depressed regions and, for the first time, enable these low-income residents to have access to necessary emergency, medical, government and other public services.¹³¹ Granting this waiver serves the public interest because doing so furthers the Commission's goal of increasing the deployment of telecommunications facilities in unserved and underserved regions of the Nation, especially among Native American populations."

NITI also congratulates Sacred Wind for increasing its enhanced Lifeline subscriptions from 26 from the time it began operations in December 2006 to over 1,000 Lifeline subscribers today.

Sincerely,

Karen Buller
President and CEO